



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/628,384 | 07/29/2003 | Tsukasa Ooishi | 57454-949 | 3939 |
| 20277 | 7590 | 06/19/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP 600 13TH STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3096 | | | LUU, AN T | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2816 | |

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/628,384

Applicant(s)

OOISHI ET AL.

Examiner

An T. Luu

Art Unit

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21 and 23-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 21 and 23 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/301359.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's Amendment filed on 5-9-06 has been received and entered in the case. Claim 22 is canceled. The rejections set forth in the previous Office Action for claims 24-26 are maintained as indicated below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Yamagata et al reference (US Patent 5,726,946).

Yamagata discloses in figures 32-36 disclose a semiconductor device comprising a substrate 765 (figure 36) in which a circuit (i.e., IV50 of figure 34) exists, and a power supply system (i.e., all components but IV50-52 of figure 34) supplying a potential (i.e., VCC or VCL or VSS or VSL) of said substrate, said power supply system switching between a first case in which the substrate potential satisfies a first voltage condition in the forward direction with respect to the conductivity of source-drain of a transistor and a second case in which the substrate potential satisfies a second voltage condition of a value smaller than that of the first voltage condition (See description of Embodiment 5 from col. 48).

As to claim 25, figures 32-36 disclose a control circuit (i.e., 710 and 720) transmitting a control signal (i.e., Φ_{cc} , Φ_{ss} and Φ_{bn}) to said power supply system is provided inside the semiconductor device, and said power supply system receives said control signal from said

Art Unit: 2816

control circuit to supply power (i.e., VCC or VCL or VSS or VSL) to a group of the desired circuits (i.e., 700-1...700-n).

As to claim 26, it is rejected for reciting an operational characteristic of the above circuit (See Abstract and/or Summary of the invention).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 5-9-06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant has argued that *the Examiner has failed to point out specifically wherein the reference discloses the switching of the power supply circuit recited in claim 24*. Examiner respectfully disagrees since the recitation of claim 24 calls for “*said power supply system switching between a first case in which the substrate potential satisfies a first voltage condition in the forward direction with respect to the conductivity of source-drain of a transistor and a second case in which the substrate potential satisfies a second voltage condition of a value smaller than that of the first voltage condition*” which means there is changes (i.e., switching) in power supply when substrate potential satisfies a certain condition. However, it does not necessarily means the power supply to the substrate must be changed from one level to another level. The recitation of claim 24 reads on the Yamagata since Yamagata discloses power supply system including VCC, VCL, Q50a, Q51a and 761a (for high potential side) in which *said power supply system switching (i.e., changes power in line 760) between a first case in which the substrate potential satisfies a first voltage condition in the forward direction with respect to the conductivity of source-drain of a transistor PQ50 and a second case in which the substrate*

Art Unit: 2816

potential satisfies a second voltage condition of a value smaller than that of the first voltage condition. In short, claim calls for switching power supply, not switching power supply of substrate.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 21 and 23 are allowed.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:
Applicant has amended claim to incorporate allowable feature indicated in the previous Office Action.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2816


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to An T. Luu whose telephone number is 571-272-1746. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on 571-272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

An T. Luu

6-8-06 *ATL*


TIMOTHY P. CALLAHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800